

PROPOSALS

For publishing, by Subscription,

A

HISTORY

OF THE

REVOLUTIONS

OF THE

EMPIRE OF INDOSTAN,

FROM THE EARLIEST AGES TO THE PRESENT:

In which will be inserted the more useful and interesting passages of FERISHTA'S INDIAN HISTORY, a work now grown exceedingly scarce.

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CONDITIONS.

I. The whole shall be comprised in three volumes octavo.

II. The price to subscribers to be one guinea; but, as the expence of printing a work so various and comprehensive will be heavy, (not less than £ 300,) one half of that sum must be deposited at the time of subscribing;

the remainder when the last volume shall be delivered.

III. The work will be sent to press the instant a sufficient number of names appear to justify the commencement of printing so expensive a publication.

IV. The names of the subscribers shall be given with the last volume.

PROPOSALS, &c.

AN introductory dissertation on the religion, laws, literature, and commerce, of INDIA, both antient and modern, will precede the history, in which the accounts of Herodotus, Diodorus Siculus, Pliny, &c. will be compared with the more recent relations of Mr. Holwell, Mr. Dow, and Mr. Halled.—The history itself will be divided in three parts. The first part will contain what is related of INDIAN HISTORY in antient classical writers, concerning the invasions of that country by the AEGYPTIANS, ASSYRIANS, PERSIANS, and MACEDONIANS.—The second part will exhibit the series of INDIAN conquerors from the irruption of the CALIPH VALID, the first MAHOMEDAN invader of INDIA, till the death of TIMUR, including a concise but connected history of the sultans of the race of GAZNA, GAUR, and KHOWARAZM, down to the defeat of GELALADIN by GENGIS KHAN, with as ample an account of the military exploits of that great Eastern warrior and of the renowned TIMUR as may be compatible with this history. It will likewise comprehend the abridged history of the first regular dynasty of MAHOMEDAN kings, who reigned in DELHI; beginning with COTBEDDIN-IBEK, and ending in MAHMUD SHAH, dethroned by TIMUR.—The third part will trace the succession and enumerate the INDIAN incursions of TIMUR's descendants, who reigned in GREAT TARTARY, till the final expulsion of SULTAN BABER by the USBECKS; will record the history of the second AFGHAN dynasty of the kings of DELHI, overturned by SULTAN BABER in his last irruption into INDOSTAN; and will conclude with the regular history of the MOGUL MONARCHS, from BABER to the latest accounts; intermixed with that of the invasion of NADIR SHAH, ABDOLLAH, and those later irruptions that have gradually effected first the decline and since the ruin of that mighty empire.

SUBSCRIPTIONS will be received by the AUTHOR, at Woodford, in Essex; by Mr. RICHARDSON, under the Royal Exchange, in London; by Messrs FLETCHERS, in Oxford; and Messrs MERRYLS, in Cambridge.

In the succeeding pages is a specimen of the letter on which this work will be printed.

SUCCESS only inflamed the mind of Alexander with new ardour for conquest. Many great and wealthy kingdoms still remained to be subdued before he could be saluted conqueror of India ; and three of its most warlike nations, the Cuthei, the Oxydracæ, and the Malli, had confederated to oppose his farther progress. But the confederacy of nations proved equally ineffectual with the opposition of individuals : with rapidity that astonished his foes he successively passed the intervening rivers ; and, approaching the western banks of the Hyphasis, laid siege to Sangala, the capital of the Cuthei, whither the allies had retired. The reduction of that city, which was strongly fortified, and seated on a lofty hill, cost him infinite labour ; but it was at length taken by storm after a most desperate resistance, in which seventeen thousand Indians were killed. This decisive blow struck terror into the whole country. The affrighted inhabitants every where left the cities deserted, and fled to the mountains ; while the triumphant Greek prepared to follow up his victories, and burned with impatience to erect the standard of Macedon on the banks of the Ganges.

While he was meditating the full accomplishments of these vast designs, and preparing to lead his

his harrassed soldiers to new hardships, the whole camp was filled with seditious murmurings, and remonstrated with one voice against engaging deeper in projects of so hazardous and precarious an issue. Reduced in their numbers by frequent and long-fought battles, covered with honourable wounds, and crowned, as they imagined, with sufficient glory, they demanded to be led back into their native country to share that repose which their long services required, and to spend the remainder of life in the enjoyment of the fortunes they had so dearly earned. In Porus they had already found a formidable and resolute enemy; and they were informed, that, beyond the Ganges, the kings of the Gangarides and Præsians, nations renowned for valour on the plains of India,* had assembled an army of eighty thousand horse, two hundred thousand foot, eight thousand armed chariots, and six thousand fighting elephants. However exaggerated this account might have been, it filled the bravest among them with apprehension; they supposed themselves conducting to slaughter rather than to victory, and loudly and repeatedly declared, that they would not submit to be sacrificed to gratify the boundless ambition of their general.

* Plutarch in his Life of Alexander: who adds, that the Ganges itself was reported, in Alexander's camp, to be an hundred fathoms deep, and four miles in breadth.



